

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02015 221524Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----037275 230011Z /65

R 221410Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3225
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T PRAGUE 2015

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, GW, GE, CZ
SUBJECT: GDR REFUGEE CHANNEL OPENS IN PRAGUE

1. FRG DCM MANFRED GIESDER INFORMED NATO EMBOFFS JULY 21 DURING MEETING TO DISCUSS OTHER MATTERS THAT INCIDENT IN PRAGUE LAST WEEK HAD LED TO OPENING OF CHANNEL FOR EAST GERMAN REFUGEES TO FRG.

2. DURING WEEK OF JULY 11-15 GIESDER SAID, SIX EAST GERMANS, A COUPLE AND A FAMILY OF FOUR, ASKED FOR ASYLUM IN FRG CONSULAR SECTION, WHICH THEY REFUSED TO LEAVE UNLESS THEY RECEIVED SAFE TRANSIT TO WEST GERMANY. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH BONN, ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR A "HIGH-LEVEL PLENIPOTENTIARY" FROM THE GDR TO COME TO PRAGUE AND "NEGOTIATE" TERMS UNDER WHICH THE SIX WOULD BE GRANTED GDR DOCUMENTATION ALLOWING THEM TO DEPART CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR FRG. GIESDER DID NOT NAME THE "HIGH-LEVEL PLENIPOTENTIARY," BUT REFERRED US TO WEST GERMAN PERIODICAL BUNTE, WHICH RAN A STORY EARLIER THIS YEAR ON THE TRANSFER OF PERSONS FROM EAST TO WEST GERMANY. GIESDER SAID THE BASIC FACTS OF THE PRESENT CASE WERE CONTAINED IN THE ARTICLE,

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WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN. WE GATHERED, ALTHOUGH GIESDER DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY, THAT A MONETARY SETTLEMENT OF SOME SORT WAS INVOLVED.

3. GIESDER INVITED OTHER NATO EMBASSIES TO MAKE USE OF THIS CHANNEL BY REFERRING FUTURE CASES OF EAST GERMAN REFUGEES TO THE FRG EMBASSY. THE ONLY CONDITION, INSISTED UPON BY THE GDR,

HE SAID, WAS THAT STRICT SECRECY BE MAINTAINED; NO PUBLICITY.

4. GIESDER NOTED THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTRY AT FIRST ATTEMPTED TO OBSTRUCT THE DEPARTURE OF THE SIX GDR CITIZENS. PRESUMABLY GDR REPRESENTATIVE OR INTERMEDIARY LET GOC IN ON WHAT WAS BEING DONE, AS CASE IS NOW CLOSED AND THE SIX HAVE DEPARTED PRAGUE FOR FRG.
FROWICK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRAGUE02015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770262-1234
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
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Office: ACTION SS
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1775341
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR REFUGEE CHANNEL OPENS IN PRAGUE
TAGS: SREF, GE, GC, CZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/23bc5b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009